

Sullivan County NH

Type of Meeting: Delegation Executive Finance Committee
Date/Time: December 16, 2008 / 2:00 pm
Place: 14 Main St. Newport Remington Woodhull County Complex
Commissioners Conference Room

Finance Committee Members Present: Reps. Suzanne Gottling, Beverly Rodeschin, John Cloutier, and Joe Osgood

Other Members Present: Rep. Raymond Gagnon

Finance Committee Members Absent: Reps. Cynthia Sweeney, Jim McClammer

Executive Finance Committee (EFC) Chair, Rep. Gottling called meeting to order at 2:07pm.

She asked for input from the EFC members present on what their priorities should be in dealing with the upcoming FY 2010 County Budget.

All members agreed in principle with Rep. Rodeschin that reducing and eventually eliminating the County's current overall deficit of \$3.9 million is the top priority.

Rep. Cloutier said encouraging more of the beds at the Sullivan County Health Care to be filled up to the 156-licensed limit should be a key priority, a point with which Rep. Osgood agreed.

Rep. Gagnon said that Claremont City Manager Guy Santagate has proposed a property tax cap of 2.5% for county revenue, which he said we should consider at least in principle if not an actual 2.5% limit.

Rep.'s McClammer and Sweeney entered meeting at 2:26 pm and the chair briefed them on what the rest of the EFC was discussing.

Rep. Osgood continued said he believes Genesis overall did a good job running the Nursing Home but added regardless that the County ought to do a better job attracting more temporary and rehab Medicare patients, who would bring in more revenue for the Nursing Home than the permanent residents.

Rep.'s Gagnon and McClammer said the Nursing Home has a bad public image problem among a lot of constituents.

Rep. Rodeschin and Osgood said some of their constituents have suggested the Nursing Home should be privatized or sold, if it can't at least break even. A suggestion with which they said they both disagree as of today without a plan to improve the Nursing Home being tried.

The Chair asked for suggestions on what the EFC overall goals should be for the FY 2010 Budget.

Rep. Cloutier suggested that the budgets revenue to be raised by property taxes increase no more than 3% over the FY 2009 Budget.

Rep Rodeschin said she was told that the Nursing Home was running a deficit as of today. But she said she also agreed with Rep. Osgood that we should be careful not to interfere with the Commissioner's job including running the Nursing Home.

EFC agreed without objection to meet at 8:30 on Fridays in the Newport office with the date of the first meeting to be set for January.

Rep. Sweeney left meeting at 3:18 pm.

Rep. Cloutier moved Rep. Osgood seconded a motion to adjourn at 3:19 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



Rep. John Cloutier, EFC acting clerk
Sullivan County Delegation

JC/lg